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1897.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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Hongkong, 28th October, 1897. [22]

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All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have
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DEATH

At Singapore, on the 19th inst., ROBERT TREMILLAN, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. [2275]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1897.

An acrimonious controversy has recently been going on in the columns of the *Japan Gazette* and the *Japan Mail* with reference to the position of foreign newspaper enterprise in Japan upon the coming into force of the revised treaties. In the treaties no special reference is made to newspapers, and under the existing press law only Japanese subjects may publish newspapers. At present the publication of foreign newspapers is legalised under the law of extraterritoriality, and the question is whether, upon the withdrawal of this law, the provision of the national law restricting publication to Japanese subjects will entail the discontinuance of newspapers published by foreigners. As the matter stands, unless the foreign Government insist upon newspaper publication being recognised as a branch of ordinary business covered by the general provisions of the treaty, that would necessarily be the case, and if foreign Governments do so insist an alteration of the press law will undoubtedly be made, the existing law being framed to meet existing conditions only. The *Japan Gazette* on the other hand maintains that there is grave cause for anxiety and claims that the rights of foreign newspaper proprietors should be protected by an authoritative declaration that they are covered by the treaties.

Many years ago it was decided that it would be undesirable that foreigners, who were not subject to the national law, should engage in the publication of newspapers and the foreign Governments fell in with that view. It was consequently

enacted that only Japanese subjects should be allowed to publish newspapers, i.e., vernacular newspapers, in Japan, and as regards foreigners effect was given to that, law by regulations issued by their own authorities, in the absence of which the law would of course not have binding upon them.

Recently the press law was re-enacted with amendments, the object being to secure greater freedom to the press by removing the power possessed by the Government of arbitrary suspension, etc., and to provide that all press offences should be tried by the courts of law. But in the new Act the previously existing restriction of the right of publication to Japanese subjects was re-enacted, and it is this re-enactment that has specially attracted the attention of foreign journalists and brought the subject to the front. The *Japan Mail* argues that the restriction is a necessity so long as the existing conditions continue, that is, until the new treaties come into operation in 1899. That argument may be admitted, for the same objections to the publication of vernacular newspapers by foreigners, who would be free from the legal obligations resting upon native publishers, apply now as formerly. But our contemporary also argues that the re-enactment does not imply any intention on the part of the Government to interfere with foreign newspaper enterprise, and suggests that when extraterritoriality comes to an end the necessary steps will be a matter of course, be taken to accord foreign journalists national treatment. That also may be correct, but it is to be a question of substance and not of right to justify in itself on the part of those interested, for in matters of law strict interpretation has to be adopted and intentions count for nothing. Possibly if the matter were left entirely to the discretion of the Japanese Government, without any representation being made by the British or any other foreign Government, everything might be arranged satisfactorily, but it is equally possible that grave difficulties might cause. If the Japanese Government does not wish or intend to interfere with the publication of foreign newspapers when the publishers become subject to Japanese law we fail to see what objection it could have to making a binding declaration to that effect at once and accepting a reading of the treaties that would include business in the terms relating to business in general. The desire of foreign journalists in Japan (or some of them) to have their position defined seems a reasonable one, and it is difficult to understand why the expression of the desire should excite the ire of the *Japan Mail*. The *Japan Gazette* urges that the continuance of foreign newspapers in Japan should not depend upon the sufferance of the Japanese Government, but should be regarded as a matter of right—that a British subject in Japan should have the same right to publish a newspaper there that a Japanese subject has to publish a newspaper in England.

If it be decided that the treaty does not cover newspaper enterprise questions might easily be raised with respect to other forms of enterprise. This point is suggested by the *Japan Mail* in an article reviewing the position taken up by the *Japan Mail* and we present it in the *Chronicle's* own words:—“The contention of our contemporary amounts to this—that unless a trade, business, or profession is specifically mentioned in the Treaties, foreigners will hereafter pursue such avocation merely on sufferance, and its pursuit may at any time be declared illegal. Such is our contemporary's reading of a Treaty which commences by the declaration that it is ‘based upon principles of equity and mutual benefit.’” That such an interpretation is wholly without warrant goes almost without saying. Article III of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty provides that “there shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation between the dominions and possessions of the two High Contracting Parties,” and goes on:—“The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties may trade in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other by wholesale or retail in all kinds of produce, manufactures, and merchandises of lawful commerce, either in person or by agents singly, or in partnership with foreigners or native subjects; and they may where own or hire and occupy the houses, factories, warehouses, shops, and premises which may be necessary for them, and lease land for residential and commercial purposes, conforming themselves to the country like native subjects.” Newspaper business is not specifically mentioned in the article—it would be remarkable if it was—but neither is banking business so mentioned, nor can the latter, any more than the former, be brought strictly under the phrase “produce, manufactures, and merchandises,” yet will it be argued by the *Japan Mail* that all foreign banks must close their doors when the new Treaties come into force, or, if permitted to do business, are at once seen to be profligate; but if prosperous in the case of banking business, why not also as regards the business of gathering news and purveying it to subscribers?

Miss Elsie Adair will give a smoking concert to-night.

It is noticed in the *Japan Mail* that the Vaccination Institute has been re-opened.

The M. M. steamer *Sabate*, with mails, etc., left Saigon for this port on the 20th instant.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 14.2 per cent.

The lower end of Pottinger Street, from Queen's Road to the Praya, is to be closed to wheeled traffic from Wednesday next, during the construction of the new storm water drain.

The P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* and *San Francisco*, which left home 19th Oct. for Japan, via Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Yokohama, and Honolulu, arrived at her destination on the 2nd inst.

The Singapore Free Press says H. M. S. *Grafton* is to make a stay of several weeks at Penang en route to and her way through a severe storm.

The *Grafton* will probably remain there until the arrival of the *Edgar*, which brings out the new Admiral and his Secretary

Mr. Alfred, in the Australian Islands, will give an entertainment on the 20th inst. and traps on the Parade Ground on Wednesday night at nine o'clock. The programme will include a blind-folded walk on the high wire, and other daring feats. No charge will be made for admission but a collection will be taken.

The teams that will compete to-day in the first of the Tolo Tournament will be composed of—

Circles 14th Regt.
Hon. T. H. Whishaw, Back Mr. Tow
Mr. Landau 3 Wood
Hon. H. May, C.M.G. 2 Spencer
Mr. P. A. Cox 1 Gordon.

It is settled in the *Chronicle* that the Ordinance of 1896, to regulate the Manufacture of Opium, is to be re-enacted. On November 1st, 1897, was received Her Majesty's approval.

It is also notified that the Government has given its assent in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the following Ordinances:—The Appropriation Ordinance, 1898, the Chinese Extradition Amendment Ordinance, and the Interpretation Ordinance.

At ten o'clock last night information was received at the Central Police Station that fire had broken out in Wimbley Street. The brigade promptly turned out and halted at a iron shop in Wimbley Street. After a diligent search the firemen, with the aid of eight candles, found a lean in the ceiling of the first floor, smouldering. The sparks were quickly scattered with water and no damage was done.

It has now been decided, says the *Chronicle*, that the Anglo-Chinese Frontier Commission shall commence its labours during the present open season. Mr. H. Thirkell White, C.I.E., Commissioner of the Mandaray Division, has appointed to the British Commissioner, and with him will probably be associated Mr. W. W. W. Adams, Officer of Chinese Affairs, and Mr. S. George, C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner of Myitkyina. The Chinese Commissioner is to be Brigadier General Lin, who is now at Moulmein.

At Amyo on the 12th November, we learn

from the *Amoy Gazette*, a lawman's match (doubles) was played between H. M. S. *Centurion* and Amyo, Commander Wade and Lieutenant Wade, Commander Waymouth and Lieutenant Waymouth, ship's cook, and the ship's steward. The contest resulted in a victory for Amyo by 6 sets to 3, or 49 games. Scores—Commander Wade and Lieutenant Fairlie vs. Messrs. Bailey and Sharp 6-1, 6-3; Commander Wade and Lieutenant Fairlie vs. Mr. Thomas and Rev. P. W. Pitcher, 4-6, 4-2, 4-6; Commander Waymouth and Lieutenant Waymouth vs. Messrs. Bailey and Sharp, 6-4, 5-7; Commander Waymouth and Lieutenant Fairlie vs. Mr. Thomas and Rev. P. W. Pitcher, 4-6, 4-0.

At Wongtsaicheng on the 19th instant, a woman was sold by one of her neighbours to show the ring she wore. On doing so, the ring was snatched from her finger and all efforts to recover it proved futile. She had no other recourse but to appeal to the Police. Inspector Ma, a Chinese, accepted the woman into his office and enquired into the affair. The constable went to the house of the woman, where he was met upon by an infirmed old woman, who held in her hand an antiquated and queer-looking plated sword. She was however, disarmed and placed in custody. On Saturday morning she was brought before the Magistrate, and it was stated that the woman had on several occasions been sent to the police by the Police, and had been liberated. She was again sent to the police on account of an offence of annoyance to her neighbours, constantly rolling with them, and robbing them of their fruits, eggs, etc. Hon. H. E. Wodhouse ordered her to be kept under observation for a week.

Both the Singapore papers have referred to the Straits cricket team that recently visited us as not being the colony's best. This opinion is repeated by the *Singapore Free Press* in an article congratulating the Straits team on their victory. The *Chronicle* also mentions this point in an article reviewing the position taken up by the *Japan Mail* and we present it in the *Chronicle's* own words:—“The contention of our contemporary amounts to this—that unless a trade, business, or profession is specifically mentioned in the Treaties, foreigners will hereafter pursue such avocation merely on sufferance, and its pursuit may at any time be declared illegal. Such is our contemporary's reading of a Treaty which commences by the declaration that it is ‘based upon principles of equity and mutual benefit.’”

“Taking it all round, the team was not up just about as good as my team, but might be greater, and I think it is the best team in the colony.”

Mr. Alfred Wetherell No. 49, declared that he was in duty in Bonham Strand on the night of the 15th instant, when he heard a report of a fire. He then heard another report of a fire. He got up and went to the fire, and saw smoke rising from the building. He then ran to the fire, and saw a number of people running up the street in an opposite direction. He blew his whistle and gave chase.

He had proceeded only a short distance when he heard the report of a fire. He went up, and when about half way up the street saw a flash, but heard no report. At the end of the street he stumbled against some stones and fell. He then heard another report of a fire.

He got up and went to the fire, and saw smoke rising from the building. He then retraced his steps and when he got to the Kung Hop Yuen heard there was a thief in the shop. There was but one light burning at the time. He searched the shop but found no thief.

The Kung Hop Yuen had bought a small bottle of medicinal oil a few minutes before he went in with the others. He spoke the Tungku Nantuo dialect. The robbers all wore black caps. There were only four people in the shop. The two lefts had already gone to sleep near the stairs. Only one was awake, and he was a boy of about 12 years old. He was the only one who was awake and the others were sleeping.

Both the two lefts stated that they went to bed at 9 o'clock on the night of the 15th instant and were awakened by one of them when they did not know. They saw several strangers who had revolver in the shop, and they were ordered to take off their clothes.

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THE GANG ROBBERY AND MURDER.

The 15th instant, with the robbery and murder in Hulme Street on the 13th instant were again brought before Hon. H. E. Wodhouse, Police Magistrate, on Saturday.

Mr. Cheung said he was the accountant of the Wong Ho Yuen shop, No. 27, Bund Street. On

the 15th instant, at about 0.15 p.m., he was staying at the shop, and A. Ching—this man was followed by another, of the name of Mr. Wong, who was a boy of 12 years old, and he demanded the key of the safe. They searched him and found the key to his girl. The two then took hold of the man and forced him into the accountant's room, where one opened a safe and took from it a box containing some bank notes and silver coins.

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OLYMPIA 2,698 J. Trudgill Nov. 21 MOUL 3,654 W. H. Wright Jan. 4

COLUMBIA 3,013 A. Gow Nov. 11 PHILIP 2,338 A. Gove Feb. 5

TACOMA 3,145 A. Dixon Feb. 11 BRAHMA 3,601 E. Porter March 5

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Hongkong, 17th November, 1897.

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BREMEN VIA PORTS OF CALL	BAYER	Brit. str.	Probst	P. & O. S. N. Co.
MARSEILLE VIA SAIGON, ETC.	CELESTE	Brit. str.	Georges	
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NAOON, 11, BOMBAY	CELESTE	Brit. str.	Georges	
PORTLAND, OREGON VIA KOREA	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SAN FRANCISCO VIA SHAL	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SAN FRANCISCO	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
BALTIMORE	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
NEW YORK VIA SUEZ CANAL	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
NEW YORK	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
NEW YORK	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
NAGASAKI, KORE & YAMA	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
YAMA VIA NAGASAKI & KORE	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
TIERTSIN	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SHANGHAI, KORE & YAMA	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SHANGHAI & KORE	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SHANGHAI	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SWATOW, AMoy & FOCHOW	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
MANILA DIRECT & C.	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, & C.	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
SPORCE, COLOMBO, & BOMBAY	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
STRAITS & BOMBAY	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
STRAITS & CALCUTTA	CHINA	Brit. str.	Amor, str.	
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THE STEAMSHIP.

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"SARPEDON,"

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S.S. "YAROWDALE" on or about the 15th December.

S.S. "HARVEY" on or about the 10th January, 1898.

S.S. "LYDERHORN" on or about the 25th January, 1898.

S.S. "ORWELL" on or about the 15th February, 1898.

For Freight, &c., apply to SHEWAN, TOME & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 15th November, 1897.

[2315]

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAIS.

NOTICE.

STEAM FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, COLOMBO, PONDEICHERY, MADEIAS, CALUTTA, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, MARSEILLE, MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

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Cargo and Specie will be registered for Loading as well as for MARSEILLE and accepted in transit through MARSEILLE for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon, Cargo to be registered on board until 4 P.M. and Parcel until 5 P.M. on the 23rd November.

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Contents and Value of Packages are required.

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G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, 12th November, 1897.

[2316]

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PHU (via Shanghai), Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea, Tokohama, and Honolulu.

TUESDAY, Nov. 27, 1897, at DAYLIGHT.

THURSDAY, Dec. 16, 1897, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 23, 1897, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 30, 1897, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 6, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 13, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 20, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 27, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 24, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Mar. 3, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Mar. 10, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Mar. 17, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Mar. 24, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Mar. 31, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Apr. 7, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Apr. 14, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Apr. 21, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Apr. 28, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, May 5, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, May 12, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, May 19, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, May 26, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jun. 2, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jun. 9, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jun. 16, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jun. 23, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jun. 30, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jul. 7, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jul. 14, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jul. 21, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jul. 28, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Aug. 4, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Aug. 11, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Aug. 18, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Aug. 25, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Sep. 1, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Sep. 8, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Sep. 15, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Sep. 22, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Sep. 29, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Oct. 6, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Oct. 13, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Oct. 20, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Oct. 27, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Nov. 3, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Nov. 10, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Nov. 17, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Nov. 24, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Nov. 31, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 8, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 15, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 22, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Dec. 29, 1898, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 5, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 12, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 19, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 26, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Jan. 30, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6, 1899, at NOON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13